

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the pending application is respectfully requested on the basis of the following particulars:

Claim objections

Claims 2, 4, 5, and 6 presently stand objected. These claims have been cancelled, rendering these objections moot.

Rejection of claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(B)

Claims 1-6 presently stand rejected as anticipated by Dehmlow (U.S. 6,473,240). Claims 1-6 have been cancelled. It is respectfully submitted that the cancellation of these claims renders this rejection moot.

Allowable subject matter

The Examiner has indicated that claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In this regard, Applicant has cancelled claims 1-6, and rewritten claim 7 in independent form. Additionally, claim 7 has been amended to improve the language and style, and to more clearly express the novel aspects of the invention.

It is noted that the original claim 7 depended from claim 6, which depended from claim 1. However, the original claim 1 was a method claim, while claim 7 recites a system for performing the method. The Examiner has observed, in the objection to claim 6, that claim 6 depends from a method claim but reads more like an apparatus claim because it does not define additional method steps. Also, the Examiner states in the rejection of claim 6 that the language recited after “wherein” does not define any structure and therefore does not further limit the claims. Therefore it is respectfully submitted that claim 7, rewritten as an apparatus claim in independent form, is allowable as indicated by the Examiner without further incorporation of limitations from claims 1 and 6.

New claims

New dependent claims 8-12 have been added, each depending from claim 7. Support for these new claims is found in figures 2, 5, and 6, and in the description of these figures in the specification. It is respectfully submitted that, because claim 7 is allowable as indicated by the Examiner, dependent claims 8-12 are allowable due to their dependence.

Conclusion

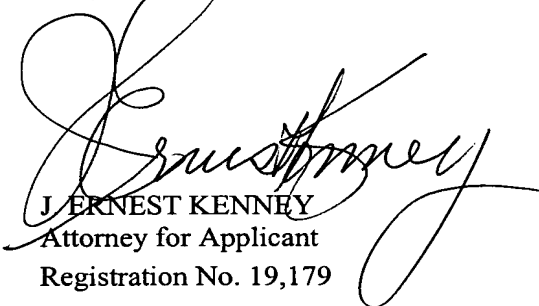
In view of the amendments to the claims, and in further view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is requested that claims 7-12 be allowed and the application be passed to issue.

If any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephone or facsimile communication with the Applicant's attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the numbers shown.

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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